

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03186 270856Z

15/45

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3825

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3186

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TAGS AND SUBJECT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH MIDDLE EAST POLICY

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

REF: (A) ANKARA 3089; (B) DAMASCUS 439

SUMMARY: ACCORDING SENIOR MFA OFFICER, SYRIAN FONMIN
IN "URGENT" VISIT TO ANKARA APRIL 23 (REFTELS) DID NOT ASK FOR
TURKISH ASSISTANCE IN PEACE SETTLEMENT. OFFICER ALSO SAID
TURKEY WILL CONTINUE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL BUT WILL BE MORE
"CAUTIOUS", AS BY REDUCING OFFICIAL VISITS BOTH WAYS. GOT ALSO
CONTINUES NON-RECOGNITION OF PLO. KURDISH PROBLEM IN IRAQ
CURRENTLY CAUSING GOT NO UNUSUAL CONCERN, HE SAID. END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03186 270856Z

1. FOLLOWING ITEMS OF INTEREST EMERGED FROM DISCUSSION WITH

MFA MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR CELIOGLU APRIL 26:

A. KHADDAM'S VISIT - ON APRIL 22 GOT HAD RECEIVED CABLE SAYING THAT IT WAS URGENT THAT SYRIAN DEPPRIMIN AND FONMIN KHADDAM VISIT ANKARA FOLLOWING DAY. AFTER ARRIVAL, HOWEVER, WHAT KHADDAM HAD TO SAY WAS NOT SO URGENT IN TURKS' VIEW. CELIOGLU SAID THAT HE WAS PRESENT FOR ALL MEETINGS WITH KHADDAM, AND THAT ONLY OFFICIAL MESSAGE KHADDAM HAD BROUGHT WAS THAT SYRIA NEEDED MORE EUPHRATES WATER THAN TURKS NOW ALLOWING ESCAPE FROM NEW KEBAN DAM. OTHERWISE, KHADDAM HAD ONLY DISCUSSED INFORMALLY HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ON SYRIA'S CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL, STRESSING THAT AS KEY TO SETTLEMENT SYRIA MUST BE SURE FROM BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS THAT TERRITORIES LOST TO ISRAEL WILL BE RESTORED. KHADDAM ALSO VOICED BELIEF IN SINCERITY OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICT. CELIOGLU SAID THAT KHADDAM HAD NOT REQUESTED TURKEY'S ASSISTANCE IN ANY WAY. IT WAS ANYBODY'S GUESS, HE SAID, WHY VISIT HAD BEEN MADE WITH SUCH URGENCY WHEN SO LITTLE SUBSTANCE INVOLVED; AT ALL EVENT, BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON EUPHRATES WATER QUESTION WILL BEGIN MAY 2, AS ANNOUNCED (REF A).

B. TURKISH-ISRAELI RELATIONS - THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN TURKEY'S DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, CELIOGLU AFFIRMED, BUT TURKEY WILL NOW BE MORE "CAUTIOUS" IN "PRACTICAL MATTERS" INVOLVED IN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. GIVING EXAMPLE OF WHAT HE MEANT BY "CAUTIOUS", HE SAID TURKEY MIGHT REFUSE SOME PROPOSALS FOR OFFICIAL VISITS IN EITHER DIRECTION. THIS APPROACH WAS NECESSARY TO AVOID "ACCUSATIONS" FROM ARAB COUNTRIES WITH WHICH TURKEY SEEKING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH ARAB COUNTRIES HAD LONG PRESSURED TURKEY TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, TURKEY HAD NO INTENTION OF GIVING IN TO SUCH PRESSURE.

C. PLO RECOGNITION - TURKEY CONTINUES ITS POLICY OF REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE PLO, CELIOGLU SAID.

D. KURDISH PROBLEM IN IRAQ - NOTING THAT REPORTS OF SCATTERED OUTBREAKS OF FIGHTING STILL DID NOT FORM WHAT HE COULD REGARD AS A COHERENT PICTURE, CELIOGLU SAID HE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 03186 270856Z

UNWILLING TO BELIEVE THAT IRAQI GOVERNMENT WOULD RESORT TO ALL-OUT MILITARY SUPPRESSION OF KURDS. HE FORECAST INSTEAD A COMBINATION OF LOCAL CLASHES AND CONTINUED EFFORTS FOR PACIFIC SETTLEMENT. GOT CONTINUES TO MONITOR SITUATION BUT IS NOT UNUSUALLY CONCERNED, HE SAID.

E. WE CONVEYED DEPARTMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR TURKISH ENCOURAGEMENT OF IRAQ TO IMPROVE TIES WITH U.S.

(STATE 66323).
MACOMBER

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